

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying at least existence of a prescribed electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising:

accessing, by one of the computer servers on the network, a prescribed electronic information stored in prescribed one of plurality of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the prescribed one of the client computers;

obtaining, by the one of the computer servers on the network, a copy of the prescribed electronic information;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, prescribed attribute information from at least the location and time and date when said step of accessing the prescribed electronic information is executed;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, a prescribed electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining and storing, by the one of the computer servers on the network, the prescribed electronic certificate in a first memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network; and

storing, by the one of the computer servers on the network, the copy of the electronic information in a second memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network.

Claim 2 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said first memory is provided in the one of the computer servers, and said prescribed electronic information is stored in said second memory by tying up at least with the electronic certificate and the attribute information

Claim 3 (Original): The method according to claim 1, wherein said second memory is provided in the one of the computer servers.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying the electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising:

accessing, periodically, by one of the computer servers on the network, electronic information stored in one of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the one of the client computers;

copying, by the one of the computer servers on the network, the electronic information at each period access;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, attribute information at each periodic access from at least the location, access time, and date when the step of periodically accessing the electronic information is executed, and an access condition;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying each of the electronic information and respective attribute information and;

obtaining and storing, by the one of the computer servers on the network, the each of the electronic certificates in a first memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network; and

storing, by the one of the computer servers on the network, each copy of the electronic information by tying up each copy of the electronic information with at least one of the electronic certificates and one of the applicable attribute information in a second memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising providing the electronic information together with the respective of the electronic certificate and attribute information to the one of client computers.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein said periodically accessing the electronic information is executed from a second of the computer servers.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein said periodically accessing the electronic information is executed at a predetermined interval.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method according to claims 1 and 4, further comprising:

displaying one or more links respectively representing the electronic information; and  
allowing access to the electronic information using an applicable link by one of the client computers.

Claim 9 (Original): The method according to claim 8, wherein said one of the client computers is a public use computer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

detecting a change in contents of the electronic information, and  
storing, if the change is detected, the change in the second memory in addition to the electronic information initially stored.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, further comprising:

generating a database from one or more electronic information stored in the second memory, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

allowing retrieval by a public of the electronic information via the one of the client computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, further comprising:

generating one or more abstracts of the electronic information stored in the memory;  
generating a data base from the one or more abstracts, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

allowing retrieval by the public for an abstract by the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 13 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, further comprising:

storing information indicating availability of retrieval for the electronic information via the network in a third memory when the electronic information can be retrieved via a one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 14 (Original): The method according to either of claims 1 and 4, wherein said network includes an Internet.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said electronic information includes a document described by a markup language generating a web page.

Claim 16 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said location information includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

Claim 17 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said access condition includes at least any one of an access source IP address of the one of the client computers and a number of access times.

Claim 18 (Original): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said electronic information is stored in the one of the client computers that makes said request.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said accessing the electronic information is executed at an optional time which an operator of the one of the client computer generating the request is not aware of.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said generating an electronic certificate is executed by a third computer other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 21 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said attribute information further includes at least any one of an electronic information displaying period of time, the access source IP address, and a number of access times.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said uniquely specifying includes:

calculating a first hash value from both of the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining a second hash value; and

assigning the first hash value and the second hash value to the electronic certificate as inherent information for the electronic information.

Claim 23 (Original): The method according to claim 4, wherein said access condition is designated by the one of the client computers when the request is made.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The method according to claim 4, further comprising:

detecting if an object is included in the electronic information when the electronic information is provided to the one of the client computers; and

changing contents of a copy of the electronic information by describing a reference into the copy of the electronic information for the object to be viewed in the one of the client computers.

Claim 25 (Original): The method of claim 24, wherein said object is one of embedded inline in the electronic information and referred to as an external resource.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to either one of claims 1 and 4, wherein said accessing electronic information is executed either via the Internet or with a computer readable medium.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): A system for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said system comprising:

an accessing device configured to access electronic information stored in one of the plurality of client computers using information of a location of the electronic information based on a request from the one of the plurality of client computers, said accessing device being provided in one of the computer servers on the network;

a copying device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to copy the electronic information;

an attribute information generating device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to generate attribute information from at least the location and an access time and date when the electronic information is accessed;

an electronic certificate generating device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to generate an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

an electronic certificate obtaining device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to obtain the electronic certificate; and

a storing device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to store the copy of the electronic information.

Claim 28 (Original): The system according to claim 27, wherein said storing device is provided in the one of the computer servers, and said electronic information is stored in said storing device by tying up the electronic information with at least the electronic certificate and the attribute information

Claim 29 (Original): The method according to claim 27, wherein said storing device is provided in the one of the client servers.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): A system for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said system comprising:

an accessing device configured to periodically access the electronic information stored in one of the client computers using information of a location of the electronic information based on an instruction from the one of the client computers, said accessing device being provided in one of the computer servers on the network;

a copying device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to copy the electronic information at each of accesses;



an attribute information generating device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to generate respective attribute information at each of accesses from at least the location, an access time, and date when the electronic information is accessed, and an access condition;

an electronic certificate generating device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to generate an electronic certificates by uniquely specifying and certifying the existence at the time and date and contents of each of the electronic information and the attribute information;

an electronic certificate obtaining device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to obtain each of the electronic certificates; and

a storing device, in the one of the computer servers on the network, configured to store each of the copies of the electronic information by tying up the electronic information with the respective one of the electronic certificates and respective one of the applicable attribute information.

Claim 31 (Original): The system according to claim 30, further comprising a providing device configured to provide the electronic information together with the applicable electronic certificate and attribute information to the one of client computers.

Claim 32 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed a second of the another computer servers.

Claim 33 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed at an interval.

Claim 34 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a link displaying device configured to display one or more links respectively representing the location of the electronic information; and

an accessing device configured to allow a public to access the electronic information using an applicable link, said access allowing device being provided in one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 35 (Original): The system according to claim 34, wherein said one of the plurality of client computers is a public computer.

Claim 36 (Original): The system according to claim 30, further comprising:

a detecting device configured to detect a change in contents of the electronic information, and

a storing device configured to store, if the change is detected, the change in addition to the electronic information initially stored.

Claim 37 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a database generating device configured to generate a database from one or more electronic information stored in the storing device, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

a retrieving device configured to allow public retrieval of the electronic information, said retrieving device being provided in the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 38 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

an abstract generating device configured to generate one or more abstracts of the electronic information stored in the storing device;

a database generating device configured to generate a database from the one or more abstract, said database being provided in one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers; and

a retrieving device configured to allow public to retrieval of the abstracts, said retrieving device being provided in the one of the computers other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 39 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a storing device configured to store information indicating availability of retrieval of the electronic information via the network when the electronic information can be retrieved, said storing device being provided in one of the plurality of client computers.

Claim 40 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said network includes an Internet.

Claim 41 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information includes a document described by a markup language generating a web page.

Claim 42 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information includes a uniform resource locator (URL).

Claim 43 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said access condition includes at least any one of an access source IP address of the one of the client computers and a number of access times.

Claim 44 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information is stored in the one of the client computers that makes said request.

Claim 45 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed at an optional time which an operator of the one of the client computer generating the request is not aware of.

Claim 46 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic certificate is generated by a third computer other than the one of the computer servers.

Claim 47 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said attribute information further includes at least any one of an electronic information displaying period of time, the access source IP address, and a number of access times.

Claim 48 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said uniquely specification is executed by calculating a hash value of both of the electronic

information and the attribute information in a prescribed manner as inherent information identifying the electronic information, and assigning the hash value to the applicable electronic certificate.

Claim 49 (Original): The system according to claim 30, wherein said access condition is designated by the one of the client computers when the request is made.

Claim 50 (Original): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, further comprising:

a detecting device configured to detect if an object is included in the copy of the electronic information when the copy of the electronic information is provided to the one of the client computers; and

a changing device configured to change contents of the copy of the electronic information by describing a reference into the copy for the object to be viewed in the one of the client computers.

Claim 51 (Original): The system according to claim 50, wherein said object is one of embedded inline in the electronic information and referred to as an external resource.

Claim 52 (Previously Presented): The system according to either one of claims 27 and 30, wherein said electronic information is accessed either via the Internet or with a computer readable medium.

Claim 53 (Currently Amended): A computer readable medium storing a program for certifying at least existence of electronic information released on a network at a time and date, said program performing:

accessing, via one of the computer servers on the network, electronic information stored in one of a plurality of client computers on the network using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the one of the plurality of client computers;

obtaining, via the one of the computer servers on the network, a copy of the electronic information;

generating, via the one of the computer servers on the network, attribute information from at least the location, an access time, and date when said step of accessing the electronic information is executed;

generating, via the one of the computer servers on the network, an electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining, via the one of the computer servers on the network, the electronic certificate;

storing, via the one of the computer servers on the network, the copy of the electronic information in a memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network.

Claim 54 (Original): The system according to claim 53, wherein said uniquely specification is executed by calculating a hash value of both of the electronic information and the attribute information in a manner as an inherent information identifying the electronic information, and assigning the hash value to the applicable electronic certificate.

Claim 55 (Currently Amended): A method of certifying at least existence of a prescribed electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising:

accessing, via one of the computer servers on the network a prescribed electronic information stored in the one or more of the computer servers based on a request from a service provider;

obtaining, via the one of the computer servers on the network, a copy of the prescribed electronic information;

generating, via the one of the computer servers on the network, prescribed attribute information from at least the location and time and date when said step of accessing the prescribed electronic information is executed;

generating, via the one of the computer servers on the network, a prescribed electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining, via the one of the computer servers on the network, and storing the prescribed electronic certificate in a first memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network; and

storing, via the one of the computer servers on the network, the copy of the electronic information in a second memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network separate from the first memory.

Claim 56 (New): A method of certifying at least existence of a prescribed electronic information released on a network at prescribed time and date, said network connecting one or more computer servers and a plurality of client computers, said method comprising:

accessing, by one of the computer servers on the network, a prescribed electronic information stored in prescribed one of plurality of client computers using information of its location from one of the computer servers based on a request from the prescribed one of the client computers;

obtaining, by the one of the computer servers on the network, a copy of the prescribed electronic information;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, prescribed attribute information from at least the location and time and date when said step of accessing the prescribed electronic information is executed;

generating, by the one of the computer servers on the network, a prescribed electronic certificate by uniquely specifying the electronic information and the attribute information;

obtaining and storing, by the one of the computer servers on the network, the prescribed electronic certificate and an attribute information of the electronic information, which relates to a place on the network and date, in a memory associated with the one of the computer servers on the network.